

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 MC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7501

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS CAIRO 10777

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (SADAT, ANWAR), EG, US

SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF SADAT VISIT TO U.S.

1. PRESIDENT SADAT'S ARRIVAL IN U.S. IS MAJOR STORY AND SUBJECT OF EDITORIALS IN ALL THREE CAIRO DAILIES OCT 27. DETAILS OF SADAT'S PROGRAM FOR OCT 28 GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE ALONG WITH REITERATION OF MAJOR ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT FORD, THIS TIME CITING AMERICAN SOURCES: NEXT STEP ON GOLAN, BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND POSSIBILITY OF ARMS SALES, AND IMPACT OF U.S. SUPPLYING ISRAEL WITH PERSHING'S AND OTHER SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS. ALL PAPERS ALSO CARRY EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS FROM SADAT'S ABC-TV "ISSUES AND ANSWERS" APPEARANCE.

2. SADAT'S PARIS STOPOVER GIVEN CONSIDERABLY LESS COVERAGE ALTHOUGH AHRAH CARRIES FOUR COLUMN PHOTO OF SADAT-D'ESTAING MEETING AND BANNER HEADLINE THAT "SADAT STUDIES WITH D'ESTAING FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN ARAB ARMS INDUSTRY." ALL PAPERS

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ALSO CARRY ACCOUNT OF SADAT'S MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN STUDENTS IN

PARIS WHICH APPEARED TO BE LARGELY DEFENSE OF EGYPT'S SHIFT TOWARD U.S. AND AWAY FROM USSR. SADAT SAID: "OUR POLICY IS NOT BASED ON TRADITIONAL ENMITIES NOR TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIPS, BUT ON OUR INTERESTS AND PRINCIPLES."

3. AHRAM EDITORIAL CALLS U.S. VISIT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN PUSHING THE WHEEL OF PEACE FORWARD, CITING THE NEED FOR A MOVE ON GOLAN, ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION, PREVENTION OF UPSETTING THE MILITARY BALANCE AND KEEPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS OUT OF MIDDLE EAST. IT CONCLUDES THAT WHILE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT CEASED SINCE OCTOBER WAR FROM BEING A DISPUTE WITHOUT HOPE OF SOLUTION, THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE ARE NOT YET PRESENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS WILL DEPEND IN PART ON OUTCOME OF SADAT VISIT TO U.S.

4. GOMHOURIA EMPHASIZES MAJOR CHANGE IN THINKING OF AMERICANS SINCE OCTOBER WAR AND HOW COURAGE AND SKILL OF EGYPTIAN ARMY HAD UNDERCUT AMERICA'S "EXTREME CONFIDENCE" IN ISRAEL. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT SADAT BEGINS HIS VISIT SUPPORTED BY A STRONG EGYPTIAN WILL AND HE WILL BE "SEEKING EQUAL AND BALANCED RELATIONS TO REALIZE THE ARAB OBJECTIVES OF LIBERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE."

5. AKHBAR ALSO STRESS TRULY HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF FIRST VISIT BY EGYPTIAN CHIEF OF STATE TO U.S. PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE CHANGED CONDITIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE THE OCTOBER WAR. EDITORIAL EMPHASIZES THAT SADAT WILL BE EXPRESSING "JUST GOALS OF ARAB NATION, PARTICULARLY ON PALESTINE ISSUE, THE CORE OF THE CONFLICT WITHOUT WHICH IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE A DURABLE PEACE."

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